



Guide to Outside Funding

Studying abroad often leads to student creativity. Why not start being creative before you go and find additional ways to fund your time abroad? As you raise funds, it is important to tell family, friends, and potential donors how you plan to spend the funds (airfare, program costs, books, etc.). This guide will offer some great tips to help you fund your upcoming Semester at Sea Voyage!

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Scholarships

The following outside agencies offer scholarships to students studying abroad. Please verify all due dates by visiting the corresponding websites as eligibility requirements and deadline are subject to change.

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program

Application: <https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/>

The U.S. Department of States' Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program enables students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad, providing them with critical skills relevant to national security and economic prosperity. Maximum award is \$4,000.

Fund for Education Abroad

Application: <https://fundforeducationabroad.org/applicants/>

The Fund for Education Abroad (FEA) invests in promising students with financial need who wish to study abroad. Scholarships range from \$1,250 - \$10,000 and can be applied towards programs that run for at least 28 days.

The Pride Foundation

Application: <http://www.pridefoundation.org/scholarships/>

Deadline: January

Pride Foundation provides educational scholarships to current and future lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and straight-ally leaders and role models from Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Washington. There are nearly 50 different types of scholarships offered, but only one application to complete.

Phi Kappa Phi

Application:

<https://www.phikappaphi.org/grants-awards/undergraduate-students/study-abroad#.Xa3u2UZKiUk>

Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grants are designed to help support undergraduates as they seek knowledge and experience in their academic fields by studying abroad. Forty-five \$1,000 grants are awarded each year.

National Speakers Association Foundation (NSA)

Application: <http://www.nsaspeaker.org/about/nsa-foundation/>

Deadline: January

In 1989, the National Speakers Association (NSA) Foundation established a scholarship program to encourage and reward juniors, seniors and graduate students who have a burning desire to pursue professional speaking as a career.

The Oregon Trail Community Foundation

Application: <https://www.otcf.org/copy-of-our-programs>

The Oregon Trail Community Foundation was established in 1977 to serve the philanthropic needs of residents of Western Nebraska, as well as Goshen and Platte counties in Wyoming. As a community foundation, OTCF offers grants, scholarships and other services to organizations and individuals through funds provided by donations, bequests, trusts and other financial vehicles.

The Point Foundation

Application: <https://pointfoundation.org/thepoint/scholarship/>

Deadline: See website for further details

Point Foundation provides financial support, leadership training, mentoring and hope to meritorious students who are marginalized due to sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression. You do not need straight A's to apply but we are looking for individuals who have proven leadership skills, excellent scholastic achievements and want to make a difference in the world.

The San Diego Foundation

Application:

<https://www.sdfoundation.org/students/community-scholarship-program/>

Deadline: See website

The mission of The San Diego Foundation is to improve the quality of life in all of our communities by providing leadership for effective philanthropy that builds enduring assets and by promoting community solutions through research, convening and actions that advance the common good. The foundation provides numerous scholarships opportunities to San Diego residents and students.

The Tulsa Community Foundation

Application: <https://tulsacf.org/whatwedo/education/scholarships/>

Deadline: See website for further details

Tulsa Community Foundation (TCF) is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization that assists nonprofits, corporations, individuals and families with flexible charitable giving solutions. Through the creation of charitable funds, individuals and corporations recommend grants to nonprofit organizations and causes they desire to support. Scholarship funds at TCF annually provide over \$1 million of educational aid for students at institutions of higher learning. There are various scholarships available to students with preference given to Oklahoma residents.

The Rainbow Scholarship

Application: <http://www.rainbowsig.org/rainbow-scholarship/>

The Rainbow Scholarship awards deserving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) students who aim to participate in high-quality, rigorous abroad programs. To be considered for the Rainbow Scholarship applicants must self-identify on the [Fund for Education Abroad \(FEA\)](#) scholarship application.

Tortuga Backpacks Study Abroad Scholarship

Application:

<https://www.tortugabackpacks.com/pages/study-abroad-scholarship>

Eligibility

- Must be US citizen, permanent resident, or currently studying in US on student visa
- Must be full-time undergraduate student and have applied to or been accepted into a study abroad program eligible for credit by their university.
- May be used for tuition, room and board, books, or travel. Winner will be featured on Tortuga Backpacks blog, social media accounts, and alumni page.
- Amount
- \$1,000 scholarship and one Tortuga Travel Backpack.

Sponsorships

Each year, many students studying abroad raise scholarship money through their own hometown connections. You may need to do some investigating in your own hometown. A good place to start is the local Chamber of Commerce. Another is the local newspaper – often there is an editor for a section focusing on people and education who may have some ideas of organizations in your town that often support educational activities.

Some possible contributors:

- Civic groups (Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions Clubs) High school alumni associations
- Professional and business clubs
- Media (newspapers, radio and TV)
- Sororities and fraternities (local and national chapters)
- Vocational rehabilitation agencies (for students with disabilities)
- Charitable, ethnic, religious and campus organizations
- Extended family and family friends
- Your parents' employers (they may offer scholarships for employees' children)

How do I present the information to a potential donor?

Write a letter briefly introducing yourself and your goals in studying abroad, be it career, personal, etc. Tell a little about where you are going, the courses you will be taking, and how you believe this will impact your potential career goals. Describe the cost of the program and what your financial needs are.

Fundraising can serve as a way to educate the public. Suggest ways you would give back to the community as a public service after receiving such a scholarship. Some donors are more likely to help you out if they see that you are willing to give back to the community upon your return. Here are some ideas:

- Show a video from your experience
- Create a website
- Sponsor a local or regional dinner or presentation
- Lead a discussion or seminar
- Organize a campus or community forum with a theme from your experience

- Promote educational and business exchanges
- Participate in radio and televised interviews and broadcasts
- Contribute community service and outreach
- Help others to have a similar international experience

Remember, no one is likely to give you anything unless they see you are willing to put in the effort to write a good essay, put together a good proposal, or offer something back after you return from your trip. Be prepared to present your proposal either orally or in written form.

Keep careful records of who supported you and the amount. Be sure to express your appreciation for their support and follow through on any commitments you make. Your energy and enthusiasm for an international experience will be contagious! Good luck!

Corporate Sponsorships

Reaching out to local businesses is a great way to fund your voyage. When you are speaking to these local businesses, you will have to let them know that since they are making a donation specifically for you it will not be tax deductible. For tax purposes, their donation will be more like a gift. The only way they can get a donation receipt is if they donate to our regular scholarship fund, and those funds will not go directly to you but to a general fund. Make sure you note this information in case they ask. They may just give a small donation in cash or, if you encounter someone that is hesitant to pay you directly, they can always send a check directly to our office and list your name and voyage on the memo line so that we can credit it to your account. Below are some tips to get you started with corporate sponsorships

Corporate Sponsorship Tip #1: Get sponsored by a local newspaper or magazine! If you are planning to keep a photo or written blog for the voyage, why not get sponsored to do it? You can offer to write a series of articles or submit a series of photos throughout your voyage to contribute to your local media sources. You can also check with your campus newspaper to see if they can sponsor you to write a travel series during your voyage.

Corporate Sponsorship Tip #2: Offer to advertise for local companies while abroad. Here are two examples.

- Offer to advertise for a local clothing store. On a previous voyage, a few students reached out to certain fashion designers and offered to do some advertising for them while traveling abroad. They actually put on a fashion show during their voyage to help boost product awareness (they did not actually solicit sales). This may not work for large brands, but if there is a local independent clothing company that you love, offer to wear their products throughout your voyage and carry some of their business cards. If people like your style, they can contact the company directly. This is great because you also can get a new wardrobe for the voyage!
- Offer to advertise for travel/sports supply store. If you are an adventurous traveler and you know you are going to have to stock up on specialty supplies for your voyage, why not get sponsored to do it? If you have a locally owned travel or sports supply store offer to do some advertising while you are abroad. For example, let's say you buy a fancy Nalgene from "Pete's Local Camping Outlet." Speak to Pete about your opportunity to travel the world and then you can offer to take a picture of yourself with his Nalgene as you go on your Safari or your hike to the waterfalls. Pete can post the pictures you take to his company Twitter or Facebook account, or he can post a link to your blog from his website. Pete may also choose to keep it simple and he can just have the pictures (or video) posted in his store for when you return.

Corporate Sponsorship Tip #3: Do some research! Many organizations would love to have an international research liaison! You can check with specific departments at your school to start. Research projects can be something as simple as having a survey completed by people in every port and bringing the data back home. Do some research on your home campus and see if any departments (Business, Sociology, or Anthropology) are looking for some international research data. If you are able to earn sponsorship through a research grant, make sure you discuss your limitations. It needs to be mutually understood that you are traveling as a student first and that you will have other requirements in port for your courses (i.e. field labs).

- **Corporate Sponsorship Tip #4:** Start Serving! Being sponsored to do service activities abroad can be rewarding in many ways! Start by getting in touch with local charities and see if they would like to expand their awareness abroad. You can agree to participate in one service activity for each port or more if you'd like. You can document your service by getting an official form signed, take some pictures, or keep a blog! You can use SAS service trips as a foundation or you can go to a local organization and find out where their international offices are (i.e. Habitat of Humanity).

Fundraising

Start a Blog!

Starting a blog is a fun and creative way to show how other people can help contribute to your Semester at Sea experience. You can even collect payment for donations right on your blog homepage!

Here are two blog sites set up by previous voyagers:

*Jalil Bishop, F12 - <http://www.giveachance.webs.com/>

*Riley Hutchins & Dan Franquemont Summer 2012
<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/175252595/2-guys-1-boat-and-a-world-of-adventure>

Here are some other blog sites you can look into for setting up your blog:

1. www.blogger.com
2. <http://wordpress.com>
3. <http://www.weebly.com>
4. <http://www.livejournal.com>
5. www.tumblr.com

Community Fundraising

Many different fundraising activities can be a great way to get involved with your community. Below are several activities that will involve using your community to help meet your fundraising goal.

- **Community Fundraising Tip# 1:** Host a Car Wash. Check out local parks and businesses to see if you can host a car wash in their parking lot. The summer months are the best time to host a car wash. You can grab some friends and family to clean some cars together. Bring some music and snacks so that it doesn't seem like a chore. Advertising is easy too. You can make some flyers ahead of time, or you can just have your car wash crew scattered on nearby corners holding up car wash signs. It's that simple!

- **Community Fundraising Tip # 2:** Host a raffle. There are many different options for raffles, but you can check the two examples below to start.
 - 50/50 raffle. These types of raffles are great because people feel they will have a great return on their investment. For a 50/50 raffle, you sell tickets and the prize will be 50% of the money raised. The more people you get to buy tickets, the bigger the money pot!
 - Prize Raffles. These can be especially great if you can have someone donate a prize so that you gain all the profits. You can give one big prize or several little prizes leading up to a big winner. It just depends on how many prizes are donated to you, or your budget for buying prizes yourself.

- **Community Fundraising Tip # 3:** Sell your skills! Do you make bracelets in your spare time? Are you a wizard with a sewing machine? Do you make the best cupcakes? Then start taking advantage of your own efforts. If you have a hobby you are great at, why not share it with others? Start creating in bulk and sell your goods for profit. Once you have the product the only thing left to do is figure out where to sell it!
 - At work. Sell items to your co-workers or ask your parents to help you at their jobs. I'm sure they did it with your candy sales back in elementary school so they should still know the ropes!
 - Visit local Mom & Pop shops. As long as you are not competing with their business, see if they will allow you to hang out in their store for a few hours a day to sell your goods. Make sure they know what it is for.
 - Do you have younger siblings involved in summer sports? Great! Talk to the coaching staff to see if you can set up a table during the game to sell your goods. This will work especially well if you

want to sell food and drink items. To add to your creative inventory, you can also buy some goodies in bulk to sell (chips, soda, and candy).

- Sell items on your blog! – This is a win-win since not only are you selling your personal goods, but you are also directing people to your blog where they may be encouraged to donate more!
 - Use your resources. If you are heavily involved in school clubs, local charities, or religious organizations see if they can co-sponsor a table with you.
 - You can also look into selling your goods during a yard sale or online using websites like www.etsy.com.
- **Community Fundraising Tip # 4:** Partner with local restaurants to earn a percentage of the profits. Check out local restaurants to see if they will sponsor a “Sam’s (Replace with Your name) Voyage” night. To do this you can have flyers inviting people to come eat at (Restaurant Name). When they present that flyer at the restaurant, a certain percentage of the profit can go towards your voyage. This is good for you and good for the business.

You can make a simple flyer on your computer and pass those out at your job, your parent’s job, large organizations you are a member of, or just pass this out to people as you meet them. Sponsorship by a restaurant for a dinner service or two is a great way to fundraise professionally and increase the local economy. Also, it doesn’t just have to be at a restaurant. You can also try collaborating with a local bowling alley to have a bowling night!

Once you have an idea on the best business to partner with, try to schedule a quick meeting with the manager. Prepare for your meeting by being able to explain why you want to do this, how you plan to advertise, and how it can benefit their company.

Write a Friends and Family Letter

A Friends and Family letter is a simple way to explain to your friends and family, what you are doing, why you are doing it, and how they can help. Holiday gatherings are a great way to distribute these letters. You can also send out your letter via email or mail and include a self-address envelope.

There are many different formats for friends and family letters and you can use Google to get some ideas. Below is a sample letter.

Dear Friends and Family,

Imagine packing up two giant bags, boarding a large ship, coining a floating college, sailing around the world for 100 days, and visiting 12 countries all while earning academic credit. Some dream right? Well, this can happen and I'm going to do it.

*On **[date]** I will embark on the journey of a lifetime by boarding Semester at Sea's MV World Odyssey: a university, a home, a once-in-a lifetime opportunity. Semester at Sea is a comparative study abroad program founded in 1963. Their current academic sponsor is the University of Virginia, and they provide the academic credit for students. They have over 60,000 alumni who have participated in the comparative experience and "98% of SAS alums report it's their most significant semester of college." You can learn more about Semester at Sea by visiting their website at www.semesteratsea.org.*

*As a **[current major]** major, this will help with my career by **[several sentences explaining how SAS will help you in your career]**.*

Here is an estimated breakdown of my voyage cost:

Program Fees (tuition, housing, shipboard meals, medical insurance and required field labs: Travel Visas:

Immunizations:

Books:

Airfare:

Personal Expenses:

Total Expenses:

*Participating in this Semester at Sea voyage is an investment in my future and the experience is truly priceless. I am committed to making this happen. Currently, I am **[list steps you are taking to reach your fundraising goals]** to help reach my fundraising goals. I have set a personal goal for myself to raise **[\$xxx]**. However, this still leaves a gap in my expenses, and this is why I need your help. If you can contribute any amount, it will help make my dream a reality. Even if it is just \$10, it will help me reach my goal. If you would like to help, please make the check payable to **[ISE or your name]** and send it to: **[address]**.*

Thank you for allowing me to take up a few minutes of your time by reading this letter, and thank you for helping me set sail with your donation!

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Be Creative

Networking: Talk about your plans to study abroad with your family, coworkers, academic advisors, professors, and anyone else you think may be interested. They might have suggestions, advise or know of other funding options.

Frequent Flyer Miles: Ask family and friends if anyone is willing to give you some miles or buy your plane ticket with their miles.

Holidays: Ask for study abroad related gifts (e.g., backpack, money belt, camera), gift certificates (e.g., travel stores), or money.

Write: Contact your local newspaper or a travel magazine to see if there are paid opportunities to write a series of columns or send photos from abroad.

Use your skills and talents (art, dance, music, theater, cooking, yoga, knitting, etc): Put on an exhibit or performance and charge admission. Arrange an event where you teach others your skill. All proceeds would go towards your program costs.

Non-study abroad scholarships: Continue to look for scholarships that are not specific to study abroad but that can help lower your overall education costs, maybe not even for the term you are abroad.

These tips have been compiled from "Paying for your Trip: How to Raise Money," Natalie Andrews, Student Traveler Magazine, December 2006; "Ideas for Creative Fundraising," Michigan State University's Office of Study Abroad, Georgia State University's Office of International Affairs, and University of Oregon's International Affairs Office.